

TAKE A DIFFERENT ROUTE

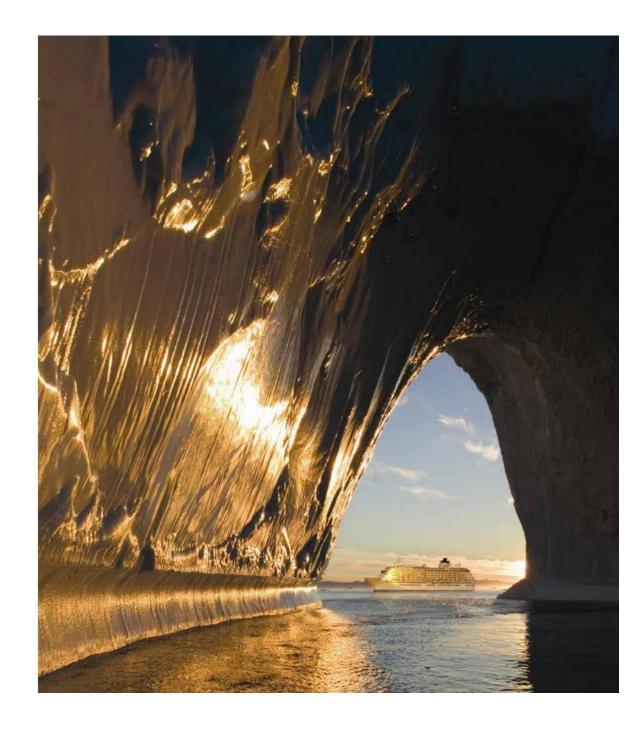
For so long now we have associated travel with sea, sun, sightseeing, pampering and generally making a nuisance of ourselves that its hardly a wonder that tourists are not the most beloved of people around the world. This is why some are seeking to find modern-day travel inspiration along a different route – one that approaches the lourist experience from a novel perspective.

Where many have sought it in extreme luxury, out of the way locations or action-packed hair-raising exploits, this selection of travel experiences gets close to Mother Nature and minimises the traveller's impact without compromising on comfort. What's more, we look at how the tourist may actually make a contribution to the environment he or she visits, something that is becoming more and more popular among seasoned travellers.

Indeed, both people with a strong sense of moral rectitude and those who've seen large parts of the world in first class and experienced much pampering, are now keen to turn their travel experience into something more meaningful than the rather voyeuristic ritual it has become in past decades.







A window on the ocean

Now we're familiar with those luxurious minimalist resorts that appear to float on the crystalline waters of the Maldives or some Pacific island against a backdrop of white sands and tall palm trees. Per Aquum resorts take this concept a step further, merging resort and ocean into one amazing visual spectacle.

Its retreats in the UAE and the Maldives offer a seductive integration of land and water in which the view from your hotel room is not of the sea but looks straight into it. Built on the edge of beach and ocean, Huvafen Fushi is a resort that allows you to luxuriate in immaculate style on the white sanded beach, seek shelter amid

tropical foliage or lounge on decks that merge with the sea - as long as you return to your room under the waterline.

These luxurious cabin suites feature the elegance and style of a fine yacht or cruiser, yet with the unmistakable views of an underwater world that are normally associated with wetsuits, goggles, oxygen tanks and flippers. Not so here, where you can contemplate another world with drink in hand, like some suave Captain Nemo aboard a five-star Nautilus decked out with spa and fine dining restaurant.

Websites and photo credits www.peraquum.com





A real floating palace

What the finest ocean liners lack is privacy, while even the most fantastical yachts cannot compete with cruise ships when it comes to the scale of amenities. The ultimate, therefore, would be a private ship with the size and infrastructure of a liner, but such a thing remains a fantasy (for now). The nearest thing in existence today is MS. The World, a beautifulty sculpted cruise ship that started life as the World of Residensea and is now owned and operated by a residential community of no more than 300 'residents'.

Fitted with everything you can desire; this floating palace has 250 staff providing a six-star bespoke service for on average of 100-200 owners and their guests. Instead of cabins or even suites the accommodation is made up of luxurious apartments of varying sizes that come complete with their own balconies and ocean-view jacuzzis.

Add a small 'hotel' for visiting guests, a choice of fine dining restaurants and cafés, swimming pools, spallounges, hairdressers, cinema, library, business centre, museum, gentleman's bar, sports facilities (including a driving range), pool decks, fitness centres and a state-of-the-art docking port for water sports, and it becomes clear that this is nothing short of a floating paradise where even adults can feel like a kid in a candy store. With automatic membership of the best yacht clubs, gold clubs and exclusive members clubs in most of the ports of call, it has everything to make you feel like royalty.

www.aboardtheworld.com



Heading inland

Combining rustic luxury with the beauty and impact of authentic wildernesses brings you close to nature without having to forsake comfort. The destinations are wide and varied, but include such remote paradises as Tulloch, in Scotland's Highlands, where towering white peaks surrounded by heath and indented by lochs form the gateway to a fairytale world of castles, ruins and mossy solitude.

The accommodation is in luxuriously equipped cottages where authentic local charm is elevated to a very comfortable home base from which to explore the surrounding national parks.

For experiences that will stay with you for the rest of your life, this is holidaying seen from a completely different perspective.

